Subsidy for export of non-basmati rice

1775. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to offer subsidy of $20.00 per tonne for non-basmati rice exports;

(b) whether India exports around 5 lakhs tonnes of basmati rice annually to Middle-East countries, which is vulnerable to manipulation as exports of non-basmati rice, claiming subsidy; and

(c) whether there is any minimum export price stipulation in the policy to prevent fraudulent claims for subsidy on non-basmati exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) A new foodgrain export policy is being formulated. It is at an advanced stage of consideration in the Government of India. The details and incentives under the scheme are yet to be finalised.

Promises made at the Hague meeting

†1776. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India had made some promises before the big companies of European Industry Group in Hague in the month of November this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have promised a change in infrastructure, bureaucracy, tax system and corruption;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether promises also include amendments in the Petroleum Regulatory Authority and TIPS rules and if so, by when these promises would be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (e) The Indo-European Union Business Round Table held at the Hague on 8.11.2004 was *inter alia*

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

informed of Government's policies for improvement of infrastructure in India; simplification of rules and regulations; steps towards meeting obligations under Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement of the World Trade Organisation; a transparent and efficient regulatory regime in different fields; and taxation incentives for foreign investments.

Facilities to tobacco growers

1777. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are providing special port facilities for the export of Virginia Tobacco;

(b) whether it is a fact that tobacco is the traditional export of lakhs of farmers;

(c) the special benefits Government propose to give to the farmers who depend on tobacco exports;

(d) whether any transport subsidy would be given for their exports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Over 50 per cent of the Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco produced in the country is exported.

(c) The Government does not propose to extend any special benefit to FCV tobacco growers.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Duty on import of agricultural items

1778. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agricultural items, on which import duty has been reduced;